



RESEARCH COMMUNICATION

Notes on the taxonomic status and typification of *Cinnamomum tazia* and *Cinnamomum pauciflorum* (Lauraceae)

Tapas Chakrabarty^{1*} & Anand Kumar²

¹4, Botanical Garden Lane, Howrah 711 103, West Bengal, India

²Central National Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India, Botanical Garden, Howrah 711 103, West Bengal, India

*Email: tchakrab@gmail.com



ARTICLE HISTORY

Received: 23 November 2025

Accepted: 23 March 2026

Available online

Version 1.0 : 14 May 2026

Additional information

Peer review: Publisher thanks Sectional Editor and the other anonymous reviewers for their contribution to the peer review of this work.

Reprints & permissions information is available at https://horizonpublishing.com/journals/index.php/TCB/open_access_policy

Publisher's Note: The article processing was done by atom e-Publishing, Thiruvananthapuram, India. Horizon e-Publishing Group remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

Copyright: © The Author(s). This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>)

CITE THIS ARTICLE

Tapas C, Anand K. Notes on the taxonomic status and typification of *Cinnamomum tazia* and *Cinnamomum pauciflorum* (Lauraceae). Trends in Current Biology. 2026; 4(2): 36-37. <https://doi.org/10.14719/tcb.9465>

Abstract

Cinnamomum pauciflorum Nees, wrongly synonymized under *C. tazia* (Buch.-Ham.) Kosterm. ex M.Gangop., is re-instated to specific rank. The latter name is treated as a synonym of *C. tamala* (Buch.-Ham.) T.Nees & C.H. Eberm. The names *C. pauciflorum*, *Laurus tazia* Buch.-Ham. (basonym of *C. tazia*) and *Laurus recurvata* Roxb. (synonym of *C. pauciflorum*) have been lectotypified.

Keywords

Cinnamomum; East Himalayas; Indo-Bangladesh; misidentification; lectotypification; re-instatement

Introduction

The genus *Cinnamomum* Schaeff. comprises about 350 species distributed in tropical Asia, Australia and the western Pacific (1); however, POWO lists 227 accepted species (2). Gangopadhyay recognized 35 species in India (3). Hooker synonymized *Laurus tazia* Buch.-Ham., described from Nepal (4), under *Cinnamomum tamala* (Buch.-Ham.) T.Nees & C.H. Eberm. However, Gangopadhyay re-instated *Laurus tazia*, transferred it to *Cinnamomum* and treated the Indo-Bangladesh species *C. pauciflorum* Nees as its synonym (5). He maintained this treatment in the account of the family Lauraceae for the Flora of India (3). Geethakumary *et al.* (6) also followed Gangopadhyay (5) and recognized *C. tazia* as an accepted name with *C. pauciflorum* being its synonym. During our ongoing studies on the Indo-Burmese Lauraceae, the original materials of *L. tazia* (see below) were examined. These original specimens are devoid of flowers and fruits. However, the leaves of the material were glabrous and the lateral primary veins were reaching the tips of the leaves up to the base of the acumen, similar to those of *C. tamala* but unlike *C. pauciflorum* in which the lateral primary veins of leaves terminate much before reaching the tips of the leaves. Thus, one may surmise that *L. tazia* is different and distinct from *C. pauciflorum* and Hooker (4) as well as Pendry (7) correctly treated the former as a synonym of *C. tamala*. It is in fact evident that the characters of the foliage of *C. tazia* agree well with those of *C. tamala*. Next, examination of the type and other materials of *C. pauciflorum* indicates that it is a distinct species characterized by the slender, short, few-flowered unbranched or once branched inflorescences with sparsely puberulous flowers. This species is restricted to Meghalaya in India and the adjacent Sylhet area in Bangladesh. Hence, *C. pauciflorum* is re-instated herein to specific rank and *L. tazia* is merged with *C. tamala*. Further, in course of the present studies, it was found necessary to typify the following names for nomenclatural stability and their unambiguous use: *Laurus tazia*, *Cinnamomum pauciflorum* and *Laurus recurvata* Roxb. (a synonym of *C. pauciflorum*) as given below.

Nomenclature and typification

Cinnamomum pauciflorum Nees in Wall., Pl. Asiat. Rar. 2: 75. 1831.

Type (lectotype designated here): Bangladesh, Sylhet, s.d., *F. de Silva* in Wallich, Numer. List No.

2579 (GZU000253900, image!, Fig. 1; isoelectotypes B_10_0277345, B_10_0277346, BM000950930, E00891607, G00693696, K000778620, K001116491, L0036011, fragm. NY00354987, P01978515, images!).

= *Laurus recurvata* Roxb., Fl. Ind., ed. 1832, 2: 301. 1832. – *Cinnamomum recurvatum* (Roxb.) Wight, Icon. Pl. Ind. Orient. 1: t. 133. 1839.

Type (lectotype designated here): [unpubl. icon] *Icones Roxburghianae* No. 1060 (CAL!; copy at K, image!).

Cinnamomum tamala (Buch.-Ham.) T.Nees & C.H. Eberm. in Handb. Med.-Pharm. Bot. 2: 426. 1831. – *Laurus tamala* Buch.-Ham. in Trans. Linn. Soc. London 13: 555. 1822. – *Persea tamala* (Buch.-Ham.) Spreng., Syst. Veg., ed. 16, 2: 268. 1825.

Type (lectotype designated by Kostermans (8) p. 11): Bangladesh [From Derwani and Gongachora], Cultivated in a garden at Rangpoor, *F. Buchanan-Hamilton s.n.* (BM – n.v.). Additional original material: India, Gongachora [Colitur in hortis Camrupae. Derwani et Gungachera], 28 Apr. 1809, *F. Buchanan-Hamilton s.n.* (E00393157 – upper specimen, image!). India, Gongachora, 28 Apr. 1809, *F. Buchanan-Hamilton s.n.* in Wallich, Numer. List No. 2569 C (GZU000254058, L0036006, images!). India, Derwani, 12 March 1809, *F. Buchanan-Hamilton s.n.* (E00393157 – lower specimen, image!). India, Derwani, 12 March 1809, *F. Buchanan-Hamilton s.n.* in Wallich, Numer. List No. 2569 C (GZU000254059, fragm. L0036007, images!).

= *Laurus tazia* Buch.-Ham. in Trans. Linn. Soc. London 13: 557. 1822. – *Cinnamomum pauciflorum* var. *tazia* (Buch.-Ham.) Meisn. in DC., Prodr. 15(1): 17. 1864. – *Cinnamomum tazia* (Buch.-Ham.) Kosterm. ex M.Gangop. in Nelumbo 53: 214. 2011.

Type (lectotype designated here): Nepal [in montibus Nepalae inferioris], s.d., *F. Buchanan-Hamilton* 979 (E00393161, image!).

Additional original material: Nepal, s.d., *F. Buchanan-Hamilton* in Wallich, Numer. List No. 2569 F (GZU000253961, L0036010, images!).

Notes: *Cinnamomum pauciflorum* was described from Sylhet in Bangladesh based on Wallich 2579. Duplicates of this collection are available in several herbaria; of these we preferred to designate the specimen available at the Nees' herbarium, GZU as the lectotype of the name. As regards *Laurus recurvata*, Forman had not cited any extant original specimen (9). However, as Roxburgh's Flora Indica drawings of the name are available at CAL and K, we designated here the drawing at CAL as the lectotype. *Laurus tazia* was described from Nepal, from "montibus Emodi inferioribus ad Cosam fluvium". The original material is represented by Buchanan Hamilton's own collections available at E, GZU and L. Of these, the better specimen at E is designated here as the lectotype of the name.

Acknowledgements

We are thankful to the Director, Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata (BSI) and the Head of Office, Central National Herbarium, Howrah (CAL) for the facilities.

Authors' contributions

All authors have equally contributed to the planning of the research and preparation of manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest: Authors have no conflict of interest to declare.

Ethical issues: None

References

- de Kok RPJ. A revision of *Cinnamomum* Schaeff. (Lauraceae) for Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore. Gard Bull Singapore. 2019;71 (1):89–139. [https://doi.org/10.26492/gbs71\(1\).2019-08](https://doi.org/10.26492/gbs71(1).2019-08)
- POWO. Plants of the World Online. Kew: Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; 2024. <https://powo.science.kew.org/>
- Gangopadhyay M. *Cinnamomum* Schaeff., nom. cons. In: Bhaumik M, Mao AA, editors. Flora of India. Vol. 22. Kolkata: Botanical Survey of India; 2024. p. 495–549.
- Hooker JD. Order CXXVIII. Laurineae. In: Hooker JD, editor. The Flora of British India. Vol. 5. London: L. Reeve & Co.; 1886. p. 116–89.
- Gangopadhyay M. Notes on the nomenclature of the family Lauraceae from India. Nelumbo. 2011;53:213–16. <https://doi.org/10.20324/nelumbo/v53/2011/57592>
- Geethakumary MP, Deepu S, Pandurangan AG. Synopsis of the genus *Cinnamomum* Schaeffer (Lauraceae) in India. Plant Sci Today. 2021;8(1):199–209. <https://doi.org/10.14719/pst.2021.8.1.1028>
- Pendry CA. Lauraceae. In: Watson MF, Akiyama S, Ikeda H, Pendry CA, Rajbhandari KR, Shrestha KK, editors. Flora of Nepal. Webedition 2. Edinburgh: Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh; 2017. <http://data.rbge.org.uk/publications/FloraofNepal/library/Lauraceae/2>
- Kostermans AJGH. Lauraceae. In: Nasir E, Ali SI, editors. Flora of West Pakistan. No. 118. Karachi: Department of Botany, University of Karachi; 1978. p. 1–11.
- Forman LL. Notes concerning the typification of names of William Roxburgh's species of phanerogams. Kew Bull. 1997;52(3):513–34. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4110285>



Fig. 1. Lectotype of *Cinnamomum pauciflorum* (GZU000253900).

Source: <https://jacq.org/detail/132762>